Unutilised Funds of PSUs of Ministry of Agriculture

1384. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various PSUs under the Ministry of Agriculture have generated huge funds through various measures;

(b) if so, complete details of funds generation during the last two years;

(c) whether these funds are lying unutilised; and

(d) what are Government's plans to utilize these funds during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Production cost of Agricultural Products

†1385. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is need to bring down production cost of agricultural products for proper development of the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is essential to increase yield-rate in the country in order to bring down the production cost of agricultural products; and

(d) if so, the average, minimum, maximum yield rate in respect of wheat, rice and main agricultural products, alongwith the scope of increase in the same?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is need to bring down the cost of production in agriculture not only for protecting the interests of the consumers and the farmers, but also for increasing competitiveness of Indian agricultural products in international trade. This can be achieved through technology improvement and better farm management, both of which also help in increasing the yield rates. The Government is taking action in this regard. Research efforts are being directed towards evolving new varieties, increasing cropping intensity, crop sequencing, inter-cropping etc., development of cheaper production and protection technology, reducing post-harvest losses and training and extension.

(d) The average, minimum and maximum yield rates of rice, wheat other important crops are given in the table below:

(Kg/Hectare)

Crop	Average Maximum Productivity (During 1997-98 to 1999-2000) 2	Average Minimum Productivity (During 1997-98 to 1999-2000) 3
Rice	3317 (Punjab)	824 (Delhi)
Wheat	4297 (Punjab)	550 (Andhra Pradesh)
Coarse Cereals	3110 (Manipur)	469 (Delhi)
Pulses	1716 (Mizoram)	356 (Orissa)
Total Foodgrains	3793 (Punjab)	801 (Delhi)
Groundnut	1704 (Tamil Nadu)	222 (Jammu & Kashmir)
Soyabean	1469 (Mizoram)	268 (Orissa)
Rapeseed & Mustard	1188 (Mizoram)	140 (Orissa)
Total oilseeds	1757 (Pondicherry)	146 (Delhi)
Sugarcane	131789 (Manipur)	4600 (Mizoram)
Cotton	602 (Pondicherry)	70 (Uttar Pradesh)

(Kg./Hectare)

1	2	3
Jute	2640 (Uttar Pradesh)	589 (Nagaland) 1652
Mesta	(West Bengal)	261 (Karnataka)

The yield rates of above mentioned crops have increased significantly over the past five decades. Efforts are continuously being made to increase the yield rates further through technology improvement, propagation of better farm practices and provision of irrigation facilities. The difference in yield rates in different areas cannot be completely eliminated because of the fact yield rates of crops depend on a large number of factors such as agro-climatic conditions, farm size, application of inputs, level of investment etc. and these factors vary a great deal from place to place.

Changes in agriculture sector under WTO

†1386. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to discontinue procurement of foodgrains from farmers, to change the support price policy for products of farmers and give concessions to multinational companies to take up farming and in the country, under the agreement with World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have discussed the crisis arising out of this situation with WTO;

(d) if so, the reaction of the organization in this regard; and

(e) the details of concrete steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) to (e) Question do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.